

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By James M. Slattery ^{Reg No 32334}
James M. Slattery, #28,380

JMS/rem
3868-0104P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000